

What is claimed is:

1           1. An a-C:H gate ISFET device, comprising:  
2           a semiconductor substrate;  
3           a gate oxide layer on the semiconductor substrate;  
4           an a-C:H layer overlying the gate oxide layer to  
5           form an a-C:H gate;  
6           a source/drain in the semiconductor substrate beside  
7           the a-C:H gate;  
8           a metal wire on the source/drain; and  
9           a sealing layer overlying the metal wire and  
10          exposing the a-C:H layer.

1           2. The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim  
2           1, wherein the length of the channel, the width of the  
3           channel and ratio of width/length of the channel of the  
4           ISFET are 50 $\mu$ m, 1000 $\mu$ m and 20, respectively.

1           3. The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim  
2           1, wherein the semiconductor substrate is p-type.

1           4. The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim  
2           1, wherein the resistivity of the semiconductor substrate  
3           ranges from 8 to 12 $\Omega$ -cm.

1           5. The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim  
2           1, wherein the lattice parameter of the semiconductor is  
3           (1,0,0).

1           6. The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim  
2           1, wherein the thickness of the gate oxide layer is  
3           1000 $\text{\AA}$ .

1           7.    The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim  
2    1, wherein the metal wire is Al.

1           8.    The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim  
2    1, wherein the sealing layer is epoxide resin.

1           9.    The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim  
2    1, wherein the source/drain is N-type.

1           10.   A method for fabricating an a-C:H gate ISFET  
2    device, comprising steps of:

3           providing a semiconductor substrate;

4           forming an virtual gate on the semiconductor  
5           substrate to define the gate area of the ISFET;

6           forming a source/drain in the semiconductor  
7           substrate beside the virtual gate;

8           removing the virtual gate;

9           forming an a-C:H gate in the gate area to form a  
10          ISFET by PE-LPCVD.

1           11.   The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein  
2    forming the virtual gate to define the gate area of the  
3    ISFET further comprises:

4           rinsing the semiconductor substrate;

5           forming a pad oxide layer on the semiconductor  
6           substrate; and

7           removing a portion of the oxide layer to form a  
8           virtual gate to define the gate area.

1           12.   The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the  
2    PE-LPCVD is performed under conditions of:

3           base pressure at least  $10^{-6}$  torr;

4 temperature of the semiconductor substrate between  
5 140°C and 160°C;  
6 a mixing gas comprising methane and hydrogen at flow  
7 ratio between 6 to 10 SCCM;  
8 the process pressure between 0.08 and 0.1 torr; and  
9 a RF power between 145W and 160W.

1 13. The method as claimed in claim 10, further  
2 comprising a step of forming a gate oxide layer below the  
3 a-C:H gate in the gate area.

1 14. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein  
2 forming the source/drain beside the virtual gate further  
3 comprises doping the semiconductor substrate by the  
4 virtual gate as a mask to form a source/drain.

1 15. The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the  
2 ratio of the methane and hydrogen, in the mixing gas, is  
3 30 to 70.

1 16. The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the  
2 temperature of the semiconductor substrate is 150°C.

1 17. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
2 flow ratio of the mixing gas is 8SCCM.

1 18. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
2 pressure of the mixing gas of methane and hydrogen is  
3 0.09 torr.

1 19. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
2 RF power is 150W.

1           20. A method of measuring the temperature  
2 parameters of an ISFET with an a-C:H as a detection  
3 membrane, comprising:

4           immersing the detection membrane in a buffer  
5           solution;

6           changing the pH of the buffer solution at a  
7           predetermined temperature;

8           measuring and recording the source-drain current and  
9           the gate voltage of the ISFET to obtain a  
10          curve;

11          selecting a fixed current from the curve to obtain  
12          the sensitivity of the ISFET at the  
13          predetermined temperature;

14          changing the temperature of the buffer solution and  
15          repeating immersion, pH change, measurement,  
16          recording and selection, to obtain the  
17          sensitivities of the ISFET at different  
18          temperatures.

1           21. The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the  
2 increment of the gate voltage is caused by increasing per  
3 unit pH at the predetermined temperature.

1           22. The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the  
2 predetermined temperature is fixed by a temperature  
3 controller and a heater.

1           23. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the  
2 predetermined temperature is between 5°C and 55°C.

1           24. The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the  
2 pH of buffer solution is between 1 and 10.

1           25. An apparatus for measuring the temperature of  
2 an ISFET with a-C:H as a detection membrane, comprising:

3           a semiconductor substrate where the ISFET is formed,  
4           comprising a pair of sources and drains  
5           separated from each other and the detection  
6           membrane insulated from the surface of the  
7           semiconductor substrate;

8           a buffer solution contacting the ISFET;

9           a light-isolating container for the buffer solution;

10          a heater for the buffer solution;

11          a temperature controller for the solution heater;

12          a test fixer connected to the source and drain of  
13          the ISFET; and

14          a current/voltage measuring device connected to the  
15          test fixer to measure and record the source-  
16          drain current and the gate voltage of the  
17          ISFET.

1           26. The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further  
2 comprising a reference electrode with one end contacting  
3 the buffer solution and the other end connected to the  
4 test fixer.

1           27. The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, further  
2 comprising a thermometer with one end contacting the  
3 referring solution and the other end connected to the  
4 test fixer to detect the temperature of the referring  
5 solution.

1           28. The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein  
2 the detection membrane and the surface of the ISFET are  
3 isolated by a silicon oxide layer.

1           29. The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein  
2 the test fixer contacts the source/drain of the ISFET  
3 through an aluminum contact plug and an aluminum wire.

1           30. The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein  
2 the temperature controller is a PID temperature  
3 controller.

1           31. A method of measuring the hysteresis width of  
2 an ISFET with a-C:H as a detection membrane, comprising  
3 the steps of:

4           fixing the drain-source current and the drain-source  
5           voltage of the ISFET by a constant  
6           voltage/current circuit;

7           immersing the detection membrane in a buffer  
8           solution;

9           recording the gate/source output voltage of the  
10          ISFET by a voltage-time recorder; and

11          changing the pH of the buffer solution and repeating  
12          fixing, immersion and recording to measure the  
13          hysteresis width of the ISFET.

1           32. The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the  
2 hysteresis width is the change in the gate/source output  
3 voltage from the first measuring point to the final  
4 measuring point.

1           33. The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the  
2 source-drain current is fixed at  $80\mu\text{A}$ , and the drain-  
3 source voltage is fixed at 0.2V.

1           34. The method as claimed in claim 31, further  
2 comprising immersing the ISFET with a-C:H as a detection  
3 membrane in a standard solution to maintain stability  
4 prior to immersing the detection membrane in the buffer  
5 solution.

1           35. The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the  
2 pH is changed from pH=6 to pH=2, to pH=6, to pH=10, and  
3 to pH=6.

1           36. The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein each  
2 pH level of the buffer solution is fixed for one minute.

1           37. A method of measuring the drift rate of an  
2 ISFET with a-C:H as detection membrane (called a-C:H  
3 ISFET), comprising:

4           fixing the drain/source current and the drain/source  
5           voltage of the a-C:H ISFET by a constant  
6           voltage/source circuit;

7           immersing the detection membrane in a buffer  
8           solution;

9           recording the gate/source output voltage of the a-  
10           C:H ISFET during constant period by a voltage-  
11           time recorder to obtain the drift rate of the  
12           a-C:H ISFET.

1           38. The method as claimed in claim 37, further  
2 comprising a step of changing the pH of the buffer

3 solution to measure the drift rates of the a-C:H ISFET at  
4 different pH levels.

1 39. The method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the  
2 drift rate is the change in the gate/source voltage per  
3 unit of time.

1 40. The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the  
2 gate/source current is fixed at  $80\mu\text{A}$ , and the drain-  
3 source voltage is fixed at 0.2V.

1 41. The method as claimed in claim 37, further  
2 comprising a step of immersing the a-C:H ISFET in a  
3 standard solution to maintain stability prior to  
4 immersing the a-C:H ISFET in the buffer solution.

1 42. The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the  
2 gate/source output voltage of the a-C:H ISFET is recorded  
3 for more than twelve hours.

1 43. An apparatus of measuring the hysteresis width  
2 and the drift rate, comprising:

3 an a-C:H ISFET formed on a semiconductor substrate,  
4 comprising a pair of source/drain regions  
5 within the semiconductor and a detection  
6 membrane of a-C:H isolated from the surface of  
7 the semiconductor substrate;

8 a buffer solution for receiving the a-C:H ISFET;

9 a light-isolation container for isolating light and  
10 carrying buffer solution and the a-C:H ISFET;

11 a heater for heating the buffer solution;



12 a constant current/voltage circuit coupled to the  
13 source and drain of the a-C:H ISFET to fix the  
14 drain/source current and the drain/source  
15 voltage of the a-C:H ISFET;  
16 a current/voltage measuring device coupled to the  
17 constant current/voltage circuit; and  
18 a voltage-time recorder coupled to the constant  
19 current/voltage circuit to record the  
20 gate/source output voltage of the a-C:H ISFET.

1 44. The apparatus as claimed in claim 43, further  
2 comprising a reference electrode with one end immersed in  
3 the buffer and the other end connected to the constant  
4 voltage/current circuit.

1 45. The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, further  
2 comprising a thermometer with one end immersed in the  
3 buffer solution and the other end coupled to a  
4 temperature controller.

1 46. The apparatus as claimed in claim 45, wherein  
2 the temperature controller fixes the temperature of the  
3 buffer solution at 25°C.

1 47. The apparatus as claimed in claim 46, wherein  
2 the constant voltage/current circuit is a negative  
3 feedback circuit.

1 48. The apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein  
2 the current/voltage measuring device comprises digital  
3 multimeters.

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1           49. The apparatus as claimed in claim 48, wherein  
2           the constant voltage/current circuit is connected to the  
3           source/drain of the a-C:H ISFET by an aluminum contact  
4           plug and an aluminum wire.